

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING
ROOM 113
THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2002
8:15 A.M.**

Commissioners Present: Bob Workman, Chair
Bernie Heier, Vice Chair
Kathy Campbell
Larry Hudkins
Ray Stevens

Others Present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Dave Johnson, Deputy County Attorney
Bruce Medcalf, County Clerk
Trish Owen, Deputy County Clerk
Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office

The Staff Meeting was called to order at 8:18 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM

1 APPROVAL OF THE STAFF MEETING MINUTES OF THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2002 (A.M. & P.M. SESSIONS) AND TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2002

MOTION: Heier moved and Stevens seconded approval of the Staff Meeting minutes dated March 21, 2002 (a.m. and p.m. sessions) and March 26, 2002. Stevens, Heier, Workman and Campbell voted aye. Hudkins was absent from voting. Motion carried.

2 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

- A. Tour of Garner Industries
- B. Letter to Constituents
- C. Corrections Symposium, April 29-30th, 2002
- D. Report on Assessment Center

MOTION: Campbell moved and Heier seconded approval of the additions to the agenda. Campbell, Workman, Heier and Stevens voted aye. Hudkins was absent from voting. Motion carried.

3 COMMISSIONERS MEETING REPORTS

A. Air Pollution Advisory Board - Hudkins

No report.

B. Community Mental Health Center Advisory Committee - Stevens

Stevens reported that the impact of two recent suicides on clients and staff was discussed.

C. Lincoln Independent Business Association (LIBA) Monthly Meeting - Heier, Workman

Heier said discussion focused on the Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development (LPED), Lincoln/Lancaster County Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) and the Lincoln and Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan.

Hudkins arrived at 8:22 a.m.

D. Planning Director Search Committee - Campbell

Campbell reported that the committee met with a "head hunter" firm representative.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

A. Tour of Garner Industries

Workman reported that he and Mayor Wesely toured the Garner Industries facility, 7201 North 98th Street.

4 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - Gordon Kissel, Legislative Consultant

Gordon Kissel, Legislative Consultant, gave a legislative update (Exhibit A), noting the following:

- Legislature continues to discuss how to solve the budget deficit.
- LB 1085 (makes four major changes to the state's tax structure) was advanced to Select File. The bill includes an income tax increase and broadens the sales tax. The Governor has indicated that he will veto the bill.

Hudkins asked Kissel to check whether agricultural and industrial repair service labor costs will be exempt from taxation under the bill.

- LB 1309 (change certain appropriations) and LB 1310 (provide for certain interfund transfers) were advanced to Final Reading.
- Appropriations Committee did not approve the request to free up LB 640 (renames grants and provides for a county aid program under the Juvenile Services Act) money

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

E. County Wheel Tax

The Board reviewed a letter from V. Rav Valasek suggesting enactment and imposition of a city wheel tax on county residents within the city's zoning jurisdiction (see agenda packet) and a copy of Nebraska Revised Statute § 13-2507 (Exhibit B).

Terry Adams, Deputy County Treasurer, appeared and reviewed a handout of estimated rural wheel tax (Exhibit C).

Campbell noted that county wheel tax proposals were defeated in the past.

Hudkins said rural residents pay sales tax on goods purchased in Lincoln and said the amount collected is more than a wheel tax would generate.

5 POLLING PLACE CHANGES - Dave Shively, Election Commissioner

Dave Shively, Election Commissioner, explained that changes have been made to precinct lines as a result of legislative redistricting (Exhibit D). Changes have also been made to a number of polling locations and notices will be mailed to the affected voters.

6 REORGANIZATION OF LINCOLN-LANCASTER WOMEN'S COMMISSION STAFF - Bonnie Coffey, Executive Director of the Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission

Bonnie Coffey, Executive Director of the Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission, said her office will be renamed the Division of Women and Children to better define its expanded role and to differentiate it from the Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission, which is an advisory board.

Workman asked whether the change will increase the budget.

Coffey said no, the budget will be reduced by approximately \$6,000.

7 LABOR NEGOTIATIONS - Georgia Glass, Personnel Director; John Cripe, Classification and Pay Manager; Diane Staab, Deputy County Attorney

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Stevens seconded to enter Executive Session at 9:30 a.m. for discussion of labor negotiations. Stevens, Heier, Workman, Campbell and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Stevens seconded to exit Executive Session at 9:55 a.m. Hudkins, Campbell, Workman, Heier and Stevens voted aye. Motion carried.

8 REPLACEMENT FOR SARA EMERY, ATTORNEY II - Gary Lacey, County Attorney

Gary Lacey, County Attorney, requested authorization to hire a temporary attorney while Sara Emery, Attorney II, is on maternity leave.

MOTION: Heier moved and Stevens seconded to authorize hiring of a temporary attorney in the County Attorney's Office. Stevens, Heier, Hudkins, Campbell and Workman voted aye. Motion carried.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

D. Report on Assessment Center

Sheryl Schrepf, Juvenile Mental Health Director, appeared and recommended that the suggestion to add a substance abuse clinician position at the Assessment Center be looked at in the context of the entire budget. The proposed budget for the Assessment Center budget is \$500,000 and the Families First & Foremost (F³) Grant will fund \$250,000 of that amount. She said the intent was to have LB 640 (renames grants and provides for a county aid program under the Juvenile Services Act) money fund \$160,000 of the remainder and said it is doubtful whether the County will receive those funds this year.

Kit Boesch, Human Services Administrator, said there is also a proposal on the legislative floor to cut Office of Community Justice (OCJ) funding.

The Board asked Schrepf to work with Gus Hitz, Youth Assessment Center Director, and Commissioner Heier to develop a list of priorities.

Schrepf also reported that F³ is looking at having psychologist oversight of the entire system of care.

9 CREATION OF A MENTAL HEALTH CLINICIAN I POSITION - Dean Settle, Community Mental Health Center Director

Dean Settle, Community Mental Health Center Director, reported that a Mental Health Specialist who provided support to the Mental Health Board has resigned her position at the Crisis Center, effective May, 2002. He said there has been a shift from mental health commitments to treatment in the community and outpatient services and recommended that the position be dropped and a Mental Health Clinician I position created at the Crisis Center instead. Settle estimated that the position will cost an additional \$2,000 the first year (see agenda packet).

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Heier seconded approval of the request. Stevens, Heier, Hudkins, Campbell and Workman voted aye. Motion carried.

10 EXTRADITION EXPENSES - Bill Jarrett, Chief Deputy Sheriff; Diane Staab, Deputy County Attorney

Bill Jarrett, Chief Deputy Sheriff, said County Resolution 02-13 (adopted a policy governing the expenditure of public funds for payment or reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses incurred by county elected officials, appointed officials, employees and volunteers) does not address the issue of extraditions and said several claims submitted by his office have been rejected by the County Clerk's Office.

Diane Staab, Deputy County Attorney, said County Resolution 02-13 does not require prior approval for travel that is included in the budget.

Jarrett suggested that the solution lies in Nebraska Revised Statute § 81-1175 which provides an exception for law enforcement.

Campbell expressed concern regarding the use of volunteers in extraditions.

Staab said that practice probably needs to be looked at, in terms of liability.

The Board asked Jarrett to meet with Staab and representatives from the County Clerk's Office to try to work through the problems indicated in correspondence from Terry Wagner, Lancaster County Sheriff (see agenda packet) and to make recommendation of whether a special section is needed in County Resolution 02-13 to address the issue of extraditions.

11 ACTION ITEMS

- A. Letter to Don Thomas, County Engineer, Regarding Relocation of Wildrose Lane

The Board reviewed a draft of a letter to the County Engineer requesting removal of Wildrose Lane Study from the Comprehensive Plan and asking that it be replaced with a study of an interchange at Northwest 12th and Highway 34 (Exhibit E).

MOTION: Campbell moved and Stevens seconded approval of the letter and directed that copies be sent to the Planning Department and City Public Works/Utilities. Stevens, Heier, Workman, Campbell and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

- B. Participation in the Food Bank Campaign Against Hunger, July 8-19, 2002

MOTION: Heier moved and Campbell seconded to participate in the Food Bank Campaign Against Hunger.

Stevens asked whether other charitable organizations could also ask to locate drop boxes.

Campbell said the Public Building Commission has strict policies governing what may be placed in the City/County government buildings.

Hudkins said the County is charged with caring for the indigent and needy and said many of the individuals and families served by the Food Bank would seek General Assistance if this assistance were not made available.

ON CALL: Stevens, Heier, Workman, Campbell and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

- C. Agreement Between Lancaster County and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) for Light Detection and Ramping (LIDAR) Data Collection Covering the City of Lincoln and Parts of Lancaster County (Approximately \$92,000)

See Item 11D.

- D. Agreement Between Lancaster County, City of Lincoln, Lincoln Electric System (LES) and the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (NRD) for Sharing the Costs of the LIDAR Data Collection Agreement Between Lancaster County and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) (Approximately \$92,000)

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Heier seconded to authorize the Chair to sign the United States Geological Survey (USGS) agreement, contingent upon agreement by the other parties. Hudkins, Campbell, Workman, Heier and Stevens voted aye. Motion carried.

12 CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Request from Russ Shultz, Noxious Weed Control Authority Superintendent, to Attend Weeds Across Borders Conference in Tucson, Arizona, May 1-3, 2002 (\$508)
- B. Vacation Request from Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer, for April 8-10, 2002

MOTION: Heier moved and Hudkins seconded approval of the Consent Items. Stevens, Heier, Workman, Campbell and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

13 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

- A. Placement of Juveniles at the Youth Services Center from Kearney and Evaluations

Heier said the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) would like to begin placing youth at the Lancaster County Juvenile Detention Center on July 1, 2002, contingent upon its final budget allocation, and said the facility will begin to plan for staffing.

Heier also reported that stainless steel door protectors and paint touch up are needed at the Lancaster County Youth Services Center.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

- B. County and County Board Web Page

Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, reported that a committee has been formed to review standards for County webpages. She suggested that the Board consider changes to its webpage.

Discussion took place with suggestions to include the following on the Board webpage:

- Welcome message from the Chair
- Individual pictures and biographical information for Board members
- Group picture of the Board
- Contact information
- Guidelines for Public Participation

C. Records and Information Management Personnel Needs

The Board reviewed a request from Brian Pillard, Records & Information Manager, to hire a temporary employee to fill in for a worker on medical leave (see agenda packet).

MOTION: Campbell moved and Stevens seconded to approve the request for a temporary hire in Records and Information Management. Stevens, Heier, Campbell, Hudkins and Workman voted aye. Motion carried.

D. Salary Review for Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

Item deferred one week with a request for the following:

- Copy of the job description
- Recommendation from Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer
- Input from the Personnel Department, including original salary range

E. County Wheel Tax

Item moved forward on the agenda.

F. County Board Guidelines for Public Participation and Board of Equalization Scheduling

Workman proposed *Rules for Public Testimony* (Exhibit F).

Discussion followed with the following suggestions:

- Take public comment at the beginning of the meeting, following special presentations
- Have the Board of Equalization Meeting agenda follow the County Board of Commissioners Meeting agenda and take public comment on Board of Equalization matters at that time
- Give notice that the Board is changing the agenda format

The Board scheduled additional discussion of the agenda format on the April 2, 2002 County Board of Commissioners Meeting agenda.

G. Reschedule Saline Wetlands Tour

The tour of saline wetlands was rescheduled for April 18, 2002 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

H. Correspondence from Terry Werner, City Council, Regarding the Lincoln/Lancaster County Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB)

The Board reviewed correspondence from Terry Werner, City Council asking that discussion of the Lincoln/Lancaster County Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) be scheduled on the next City-County Common meeting and additional information on the CVB be provided (see agenda packet).

The Board directed that a response be drafted indicating that Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer, will work with the Chamber of Commerce to ensure that public record information and any other reasonable information is provided to him.

The Board also asked Bob Workman, County Board Chair, and Bernie Heier, City-County Common Chair, to meet with Annette McRoy, City Council Chair, to inquire about the extent of concern on the part of the City Council and to relay that the County Board is still working on the Request for Proposals (RFP) process and would prefer that the issue not be brought back to the Common at this time.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

B. Letter to Constituents

Workman distributed copies of a letter he sends to his constituents (Exhibit G).

C. Corrections Symposium, April 29-30th, 2002

The Board reviewed the schedule (Exhibit H) and asked Commissioner Stevens and Dean Settle, Community Mental Health Center Director, to attend the session on mental health issues for jails and detention facilities. Mike Thurber, Corrections Director, will be consulted about additional coverage.

14 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Stevens moved and Heier seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:39 a.m. Stevens, Heier, Workman, Campbell and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

Bruce Medcalf
County Clerk